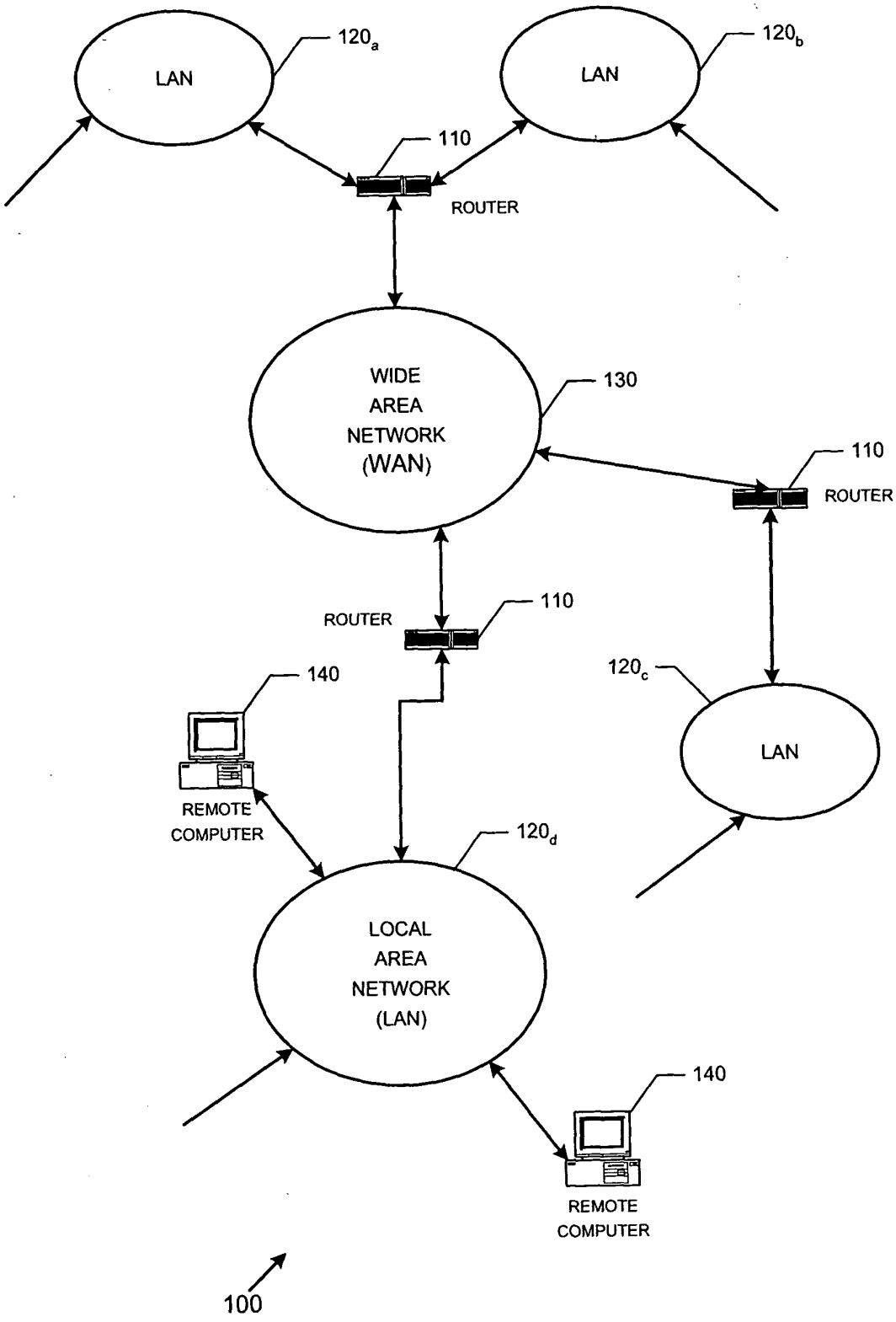
LAN
120a
LAN
120b
110
ROUTER
WIDE
AREA
NETWORK
(WAN)
130
110
ROUTER
ROUTER
110
140
120c
LAN
REMOTE
COMPUTER
120d
LOCAL
AREA
NETWORK
(LAN)
140
REMOTE
COMPUTER
100

FIG. 1

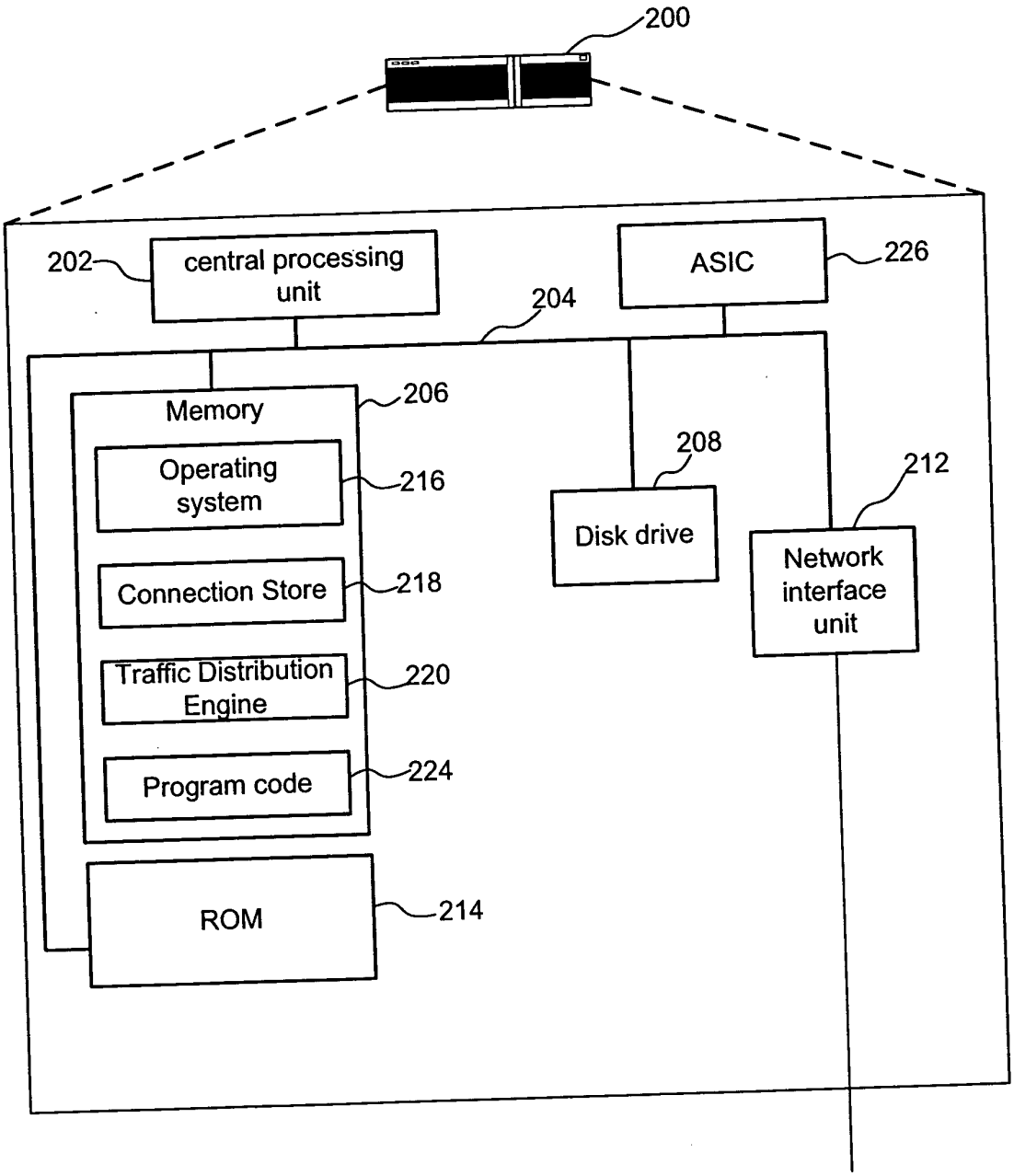
200
202
central processing unit
204
ASIC
226
Memory
206
Operating system
216
Connection Store
218
Traffic Distribution Engine
220
Program code
224
ROM
214
208
Disk drive
212
Network interface unit

FIG. 2

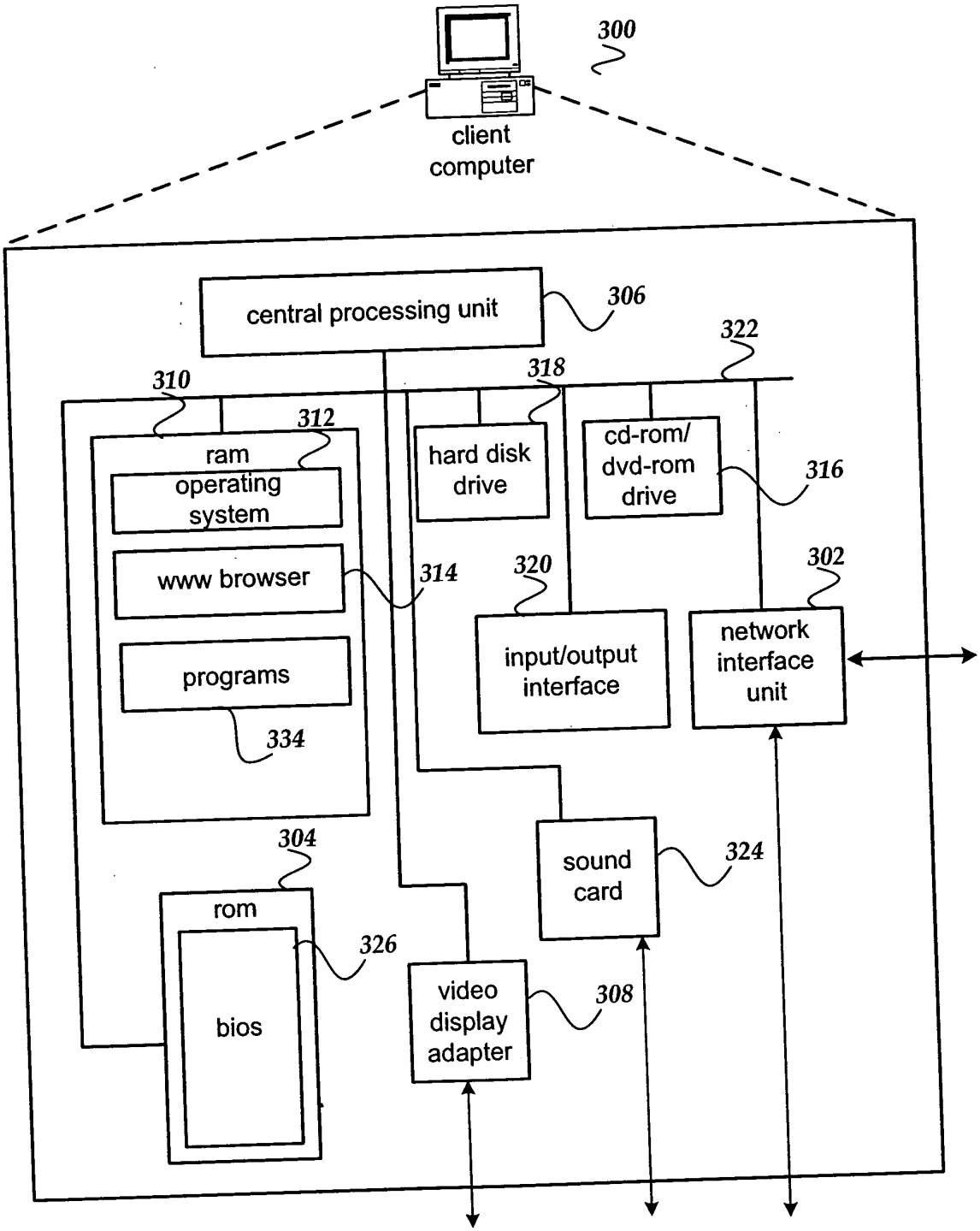
300
client computer
central processing unit
306
322
318
310
312
ram
operating system
www browser
314
programs
334
hard disk drive
cd-rom/ dvd-rom drive
316
320
302
input/output interface
network interface unit
304
rom
326
bios
sound card
324
video display adapter
308

FIG. 3

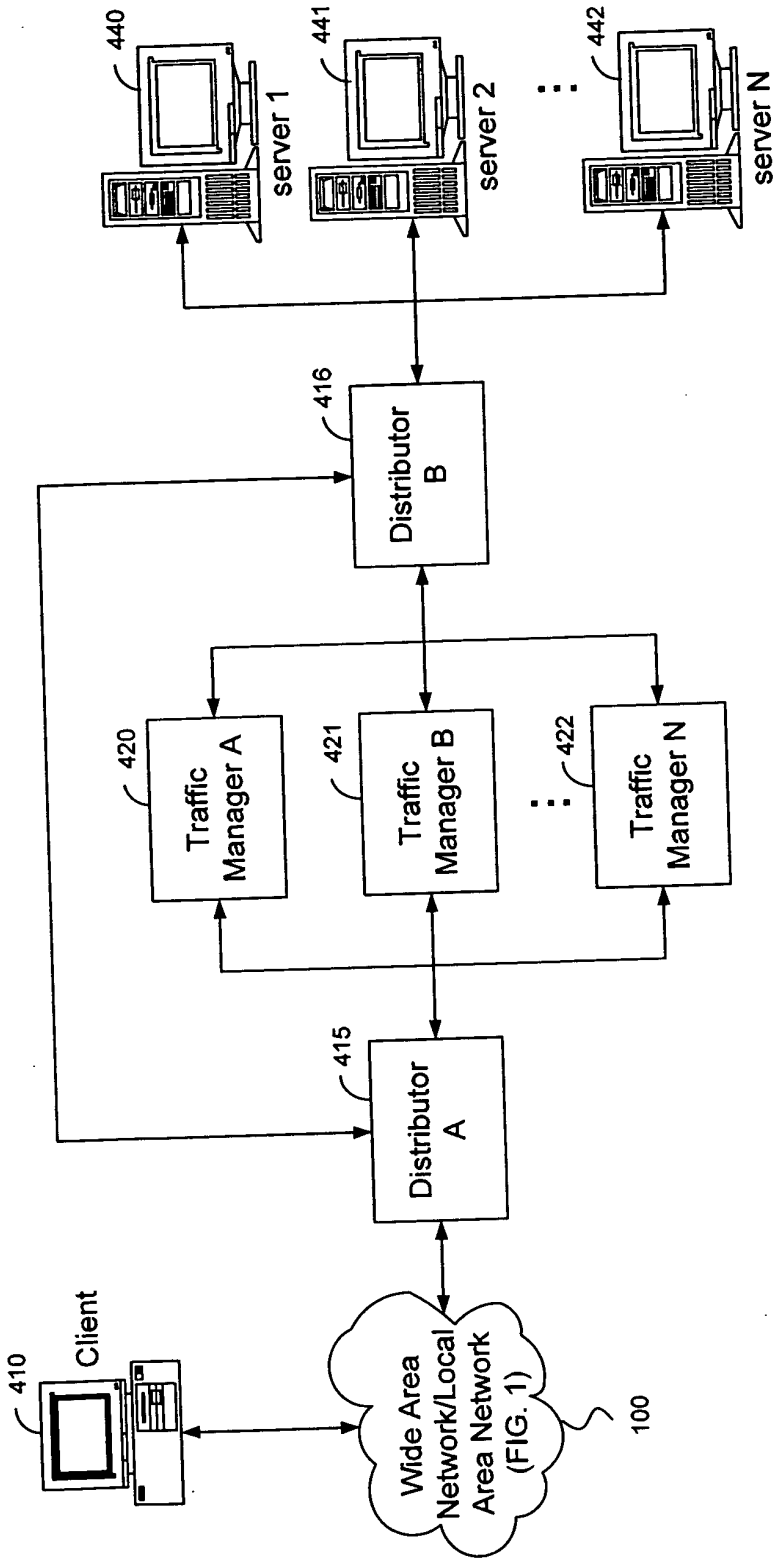
440
server 1
441
server 2
442
server N
416
Distributor B
420
Traffic Manager A
421
Traffic Manager B
422
Traffic Manager N
415
Distributor A
410
Client
Wide Area Network/Local Area Network (FIG. 1)
100

FIG. 4

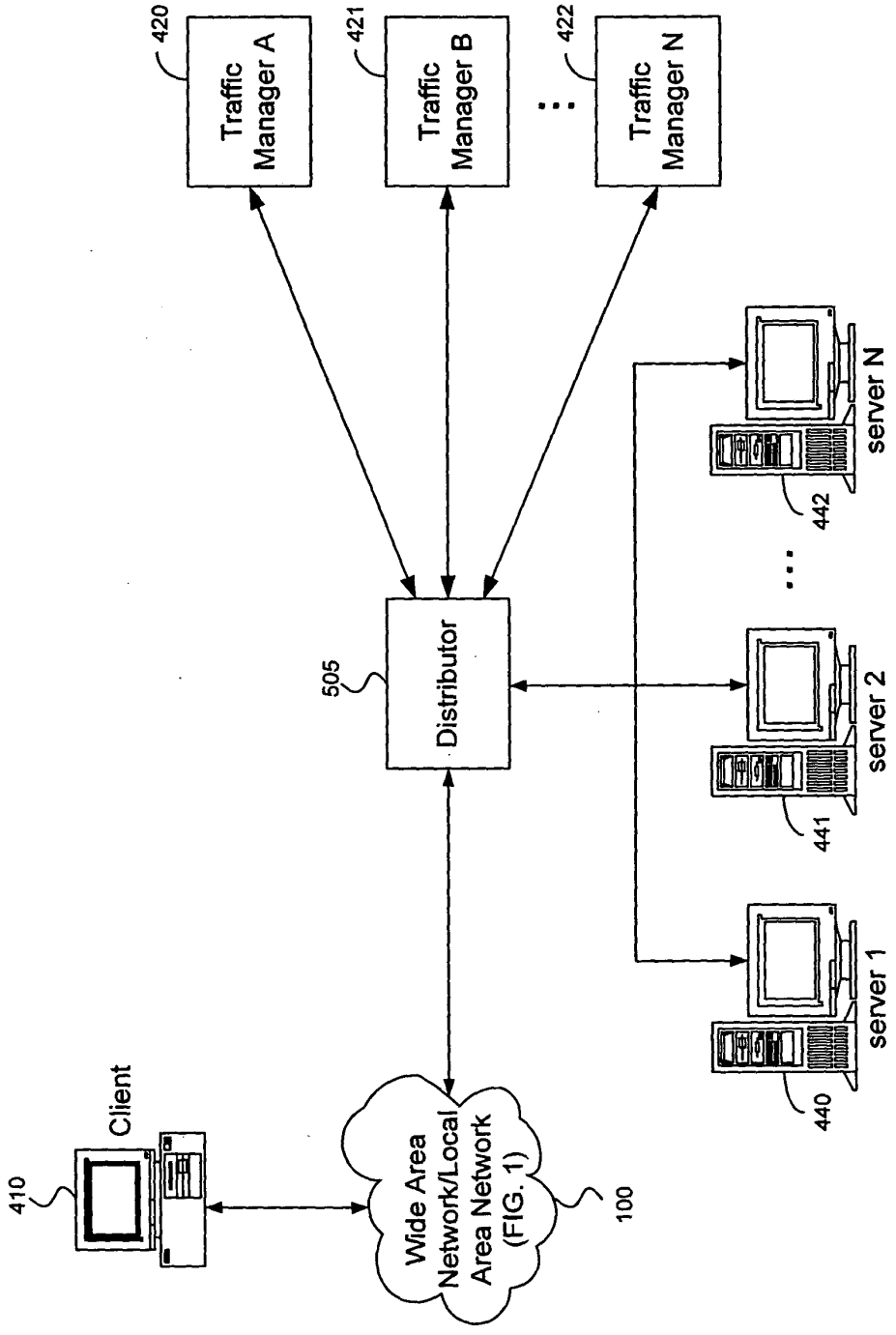
420
Traffic Manager A
421
Traffic Manager B
422
Traffic Manager N
505
Distributor
server N
442
server 2
441
server 1
440
Client
410
Wide Area Network/Local Area Network (FIG. 1)
100

FIG. 5

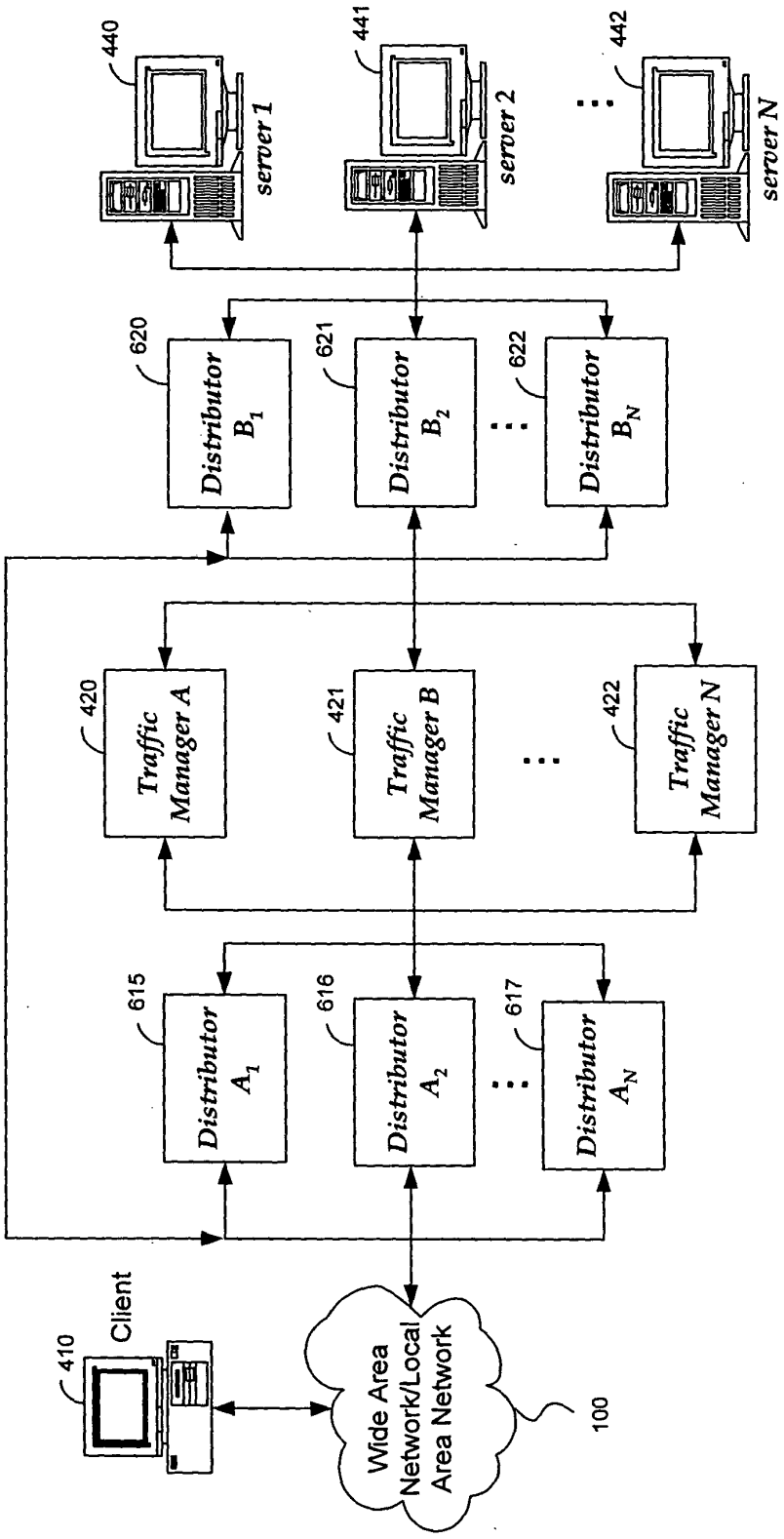
440
server 1
441
server 2
442
server N
620
Distributor B_1
621
Distributor B_2
622
Distributor B_N
420
Traffic Manager A
421
Traffic Manager B
422
Traffic Manager N
615
Distributor A_1
616
Distributor A_2
617
Distributor A_N
410
Client
Wide Area Network/Local Area Network
100

FIG. 6

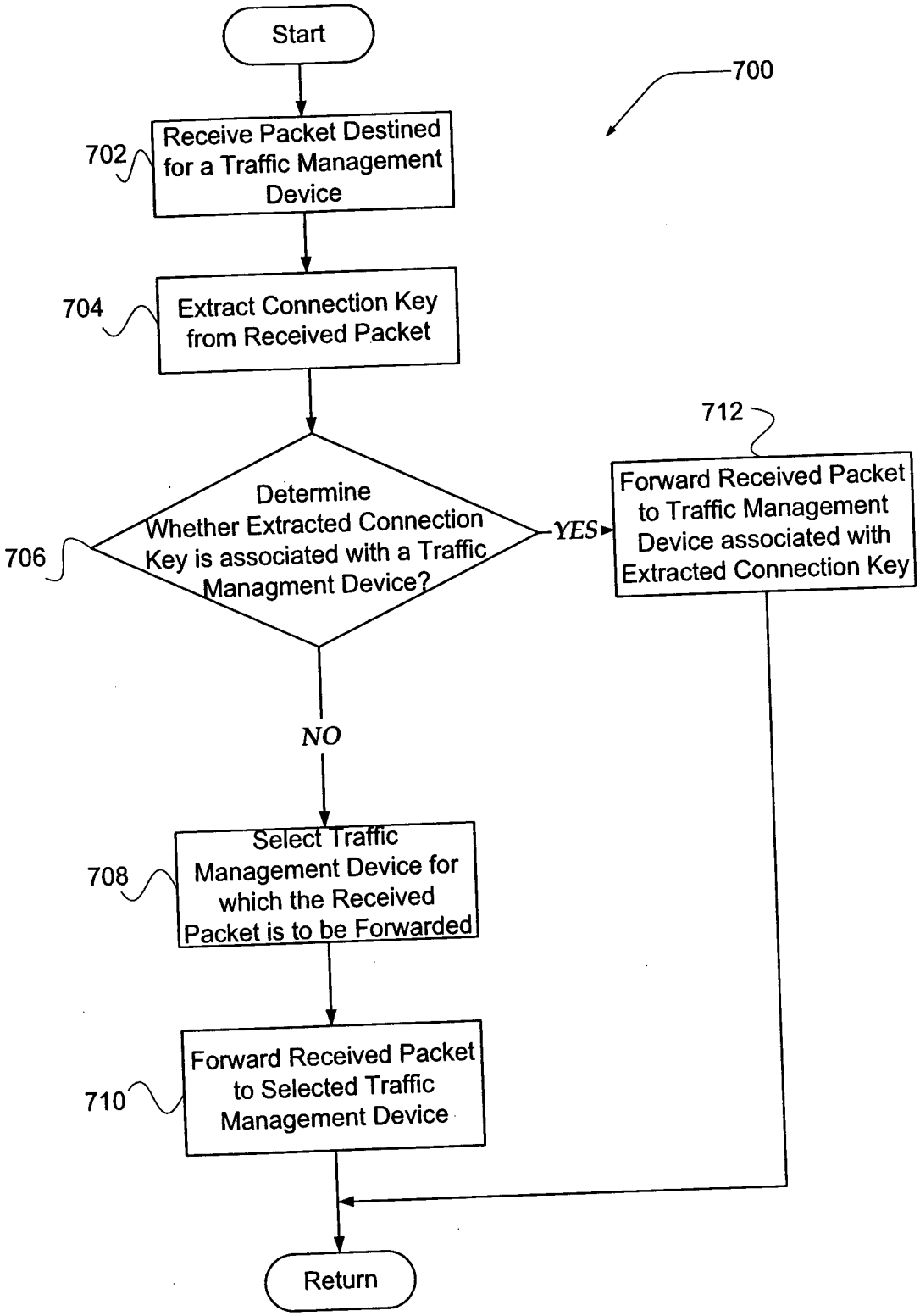
Start
700
Receive Packet Destined for a Traffic Management Device
702
Extract Connection Key from Received Packet
704
Determine Whether Extracted Connection Key is associated with a Traffic Managment Device?
706
YES
712
Forward Received Packet to Traffic Management Device associated with Extracted Connection Key
NO
Select Traffic Management Device for which the Received Packet is to be Forwarded
708
Forward Received Packet to Selected Traffic Management Device
710
Return

FIG. 7

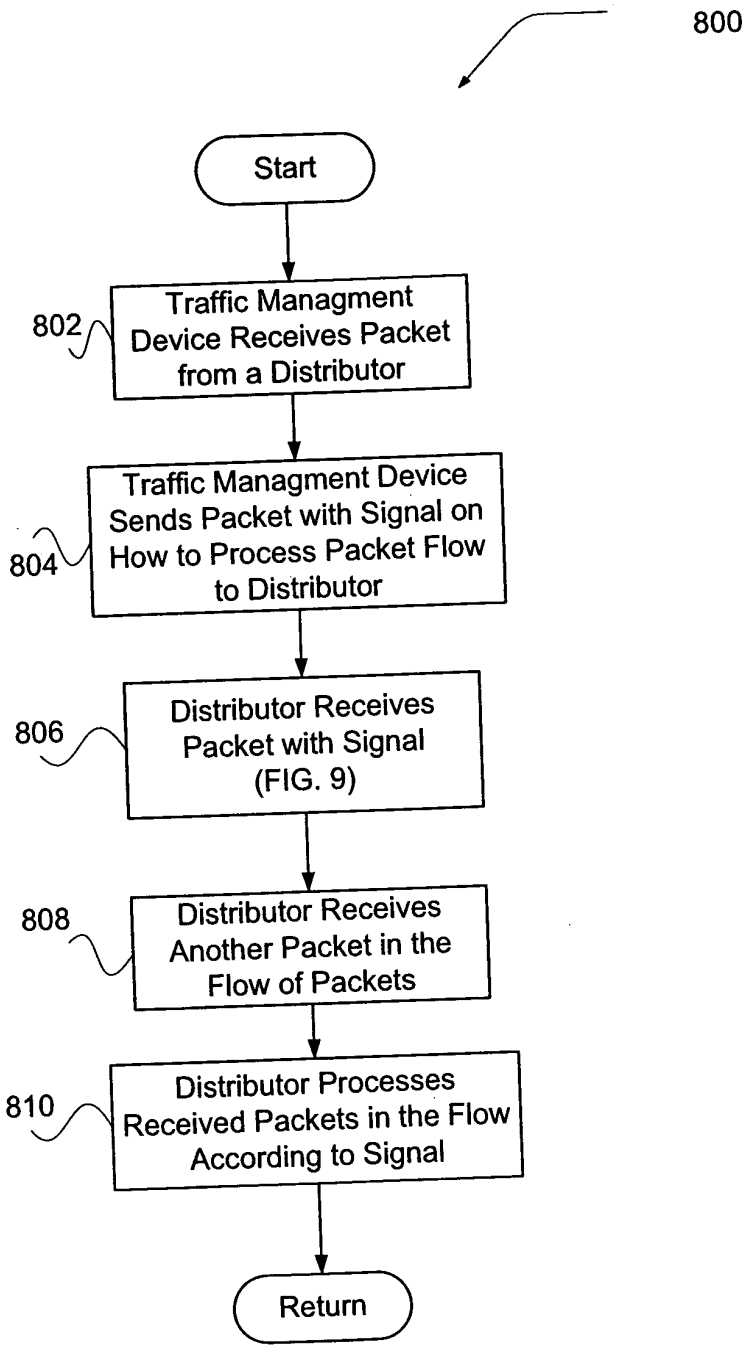
800
Start
802
Traffic Managment Device Receives Packet from a Distributor
804
Traffic Managment Device Sends Packet with Signal on How to Process Packet Flow to Distributor
806
Distributor Receives Packet with Signal (FIG. 9)
808
Distributor Receives Another Packet in the Flow of Packets
810
Distributor Processes Received Packets in the Flow According to Signal
Return

FIG. 8

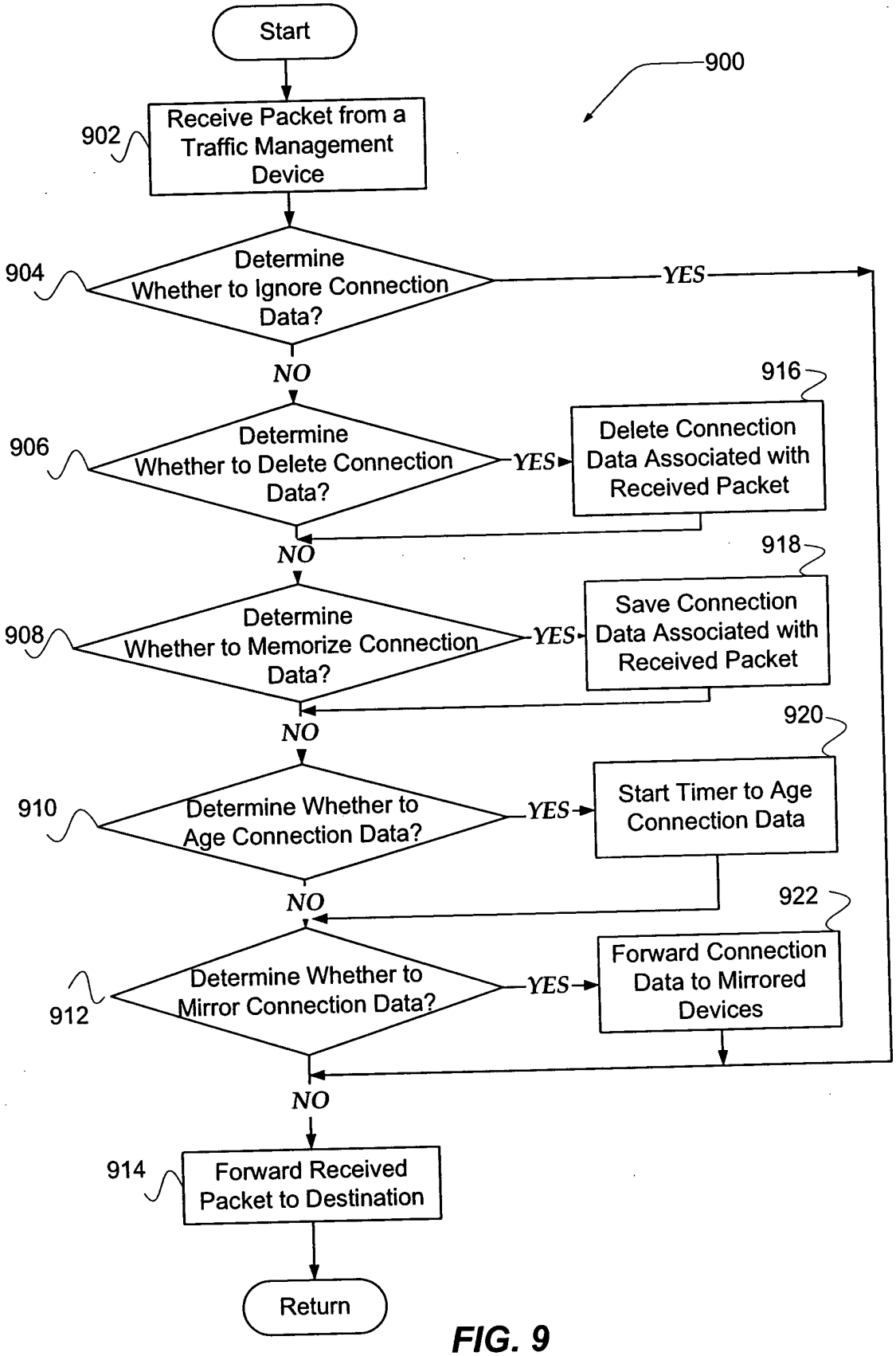
Start
900
902
Receive Packet from a Traffic Management Device
904
Determine Whether to Ignore Connection Data?
YES
NO
916
906
Determine Whether to Delete Connection Data?
YES
Delete Connection Data Associated with Received Packet
NO
918
908
Determine Whether to Memorize Connection Data?
YES
Save Connection Data Associated with Received Packet
NO
920
910
Determine Whether to Age Connection Data?
YES
Start Timer to Age Connection Data
NO
922
912
Determine Whether to Mirror Connection Data?
YES
Forward Connection Data to Mirrored Devices
NO
914
Forward Received Packet to Destination
Return

FIG. 9